



Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE 2009 CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

OVERVIEW

The California Women's Health Survey (CWHS), the first California survey to focus on women's health, began in 1997 in response to the lack of California specific data on women's health status, behaviors, attitudes, and the need for prevalence data for program evaluation and planning. The survey was established to collect, analyze, interpret, and disseminate information to guide decision-making and program planning about women's health by programs, departments, public health professionals, and policy-makers. One of the unique aspects of the survey is that in addition to core questions, programs ask questions that vary from year to year depending on the grant evaluation or program planning needs of the program participants. The survey is an effective and affordable tool for program planning and evaluation. The women's specific focus and flexibility of designing questions that meet the needs of programs is what is attractive to program participants. Questions are often pilot tested on the CWHS and then later asked on other state and national surveys. It is one of the most affordable of all of the surveys available to programs and it fills the gaps in evidence based data on women's health.

The CWHS Workgroup is an interagency group of researchers from various programs and departments who work together to plan and draft survey questions to avoid duplication from other surveys, provide peer review, and participate on an editorial board that review publications using CWHS data. This survey is conducted annually and participating programs in the CWHS Workgroup fund individual questions and analyze their own data. Program participants not only have access to program sponsored questions, they also have access to the entire survey. Therefore, programs are able to analyze their specific questions along with other survey questions to obtain a more comprehensive picture of California women. For example, program participants interested in how women with a history of intimate partner violence (IPV) could also be at risk for negative mental health outcomes or their access to food, could analyze whether IPV leads to depression or food insecurity among California women. When programs do not have enough staff to conduct data analyses other workgroup programs or the Office of Women's Health will conduct analysis and write up results that are then published by the OWH. Findings are published in reports, Data Points, journal articles, individual presentations at scientific conferences and symposiums, and website postings.

The Data Points series is a CWHS publication that is prepared by CWHS collaborating programs and coordinated by the Office of Women's Health. *Data Points: Results From the 2009 California Women's Health Surveys* is the most recent in a series that focuses on specific women's health findings based on 2009 CWHS results. The information presented in the Data Point series facilitates informed decision making. Programs and organizations use data for planning purposes, implementation, and evaluation.

The following is the list of collaborators for the *Data Points: Results From the 2009 California Women's Health Survey*:

California Alcohol and Drug Programs

Office of Women's and Perinatal Services

California Department of Public Health

Cancer Control Branch, *Network for a Healthy California*, Public Health Institute

Cancer Detection Branch

Cancer Surveillance and Research Branch

Epidemiology and Prevention for Injury Control Branch

Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health

Office of Family Planning

Office of Women's Health

Safe and Active Communities (SAC) Branch, Healthy Living with a Disability Program

Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Branch

Department of Health Care Services

Office of Women's Health

Editors: Patricia Lee, Ph.D., Office of Women's Health; Terri Thorfinnson, J.D., Chief, Office of Women's Health; Pamela Williams, Office of Women's Health; Adria Wells, Graphics and Layout Designer, Office of Women's Health.

Editorial Board: Marina Chabot, M.Sc., Office of Family Planning Branch; Joan Chow, M.P.H., Dr.P.H, Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Branch; Julie Cross Riedel, M.P.H., Ph.D., Living Healthy with a Disability Program, Safe and Active Communities Branch; Joan Epstein, M.S., Chronic Disease Surveillance Research Branch, Survey Research Group; Patricia Lee, Ph.D., Office of Women's Health; Carrie Lewis, M.P.H., Office of Family Planning; Barbara MckNelly, M.S., Cancer Control Branch; Arti Parikh-Patel, M.P.H., Ph.D., Survey Research Group; Sharon Sugerman, M.S., R.D., Cancer Control Branch; and Nana Tufuoh, M.D., M.P.H, Cancer Detection Section.

The following contributors' list includes the names and contact information for all the individuals who participated in the preparation of the *Data Points: Results From the 2009 California Women's Health Survey*.

For additional copies of *Data Points: Results From the 2009 California Women's Health Survey*, please download copies at these websites:

www.cdph.ca.gov/data/surveys/Pages/CWHS.aspx

www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/reports/Pages/DataPoints.aspx